PREFACE TO THE READER.*

FHOUGH, I confess, I have seldom taken any great pleasure in reading other men's apologies, yet must I at this time make some myself. First, therefore, I acknowledge, that when I engaged the pr<'S8, I intended only a discourse ooncerning liberty and necessity, or, to speak nut more plainly, against the fatal necessity of all actions and events; which, upon whatsoever grounds or principles maintained, will, as we conceive, serve the design of Atheism, and undermine Christianity, and all religion, as taking away all guilt and blame, punishments and rewards, and plainly rendering a day of judgment ridiculous: and, it is evident, that some have pursued it of late, in order to that end. But afterwards we considered, that this, which in indeed a controversy concerning the True Intellectual System of the Universe, does, in the full extent thereof, take in other things; the necessity of all actions and events being maintained by several persons, upon very different grounds, according to that tripartite fatalism, mentioned by us in the beginning of the first chapter. For first, the Democritic

Fate is nothing **but the** material necessity **of** all tilings **\\ithont a (Jod,** *In* **supposing senseless** matter, **necessarily moved, to be the only** original and principal of all things; which **therefore is** called by Epicurus the **Physiological,** by its **the Athe-**